GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:416
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
SURVEY ON GROUND WATER LEVEL
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Water Management Institute, Washington (USA) have conducted a survey in some countries including India to assess the level of ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey has expressed serious concern about the declining ground water level in many parts of the country and stressed the need for rain water harvesting; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.416 DATE 22.04.2002

The Government has not received any report on the level of ground water from International Water Management Institute. However, the Government is aware about a report on "The Global Ground Water Situation: Overview of Opportunities and Challenges" brought out by the International Water Management Institute. The report deals with the ground water resources of South Asia, West Asia, India and China with special emphasis on the problem of depletion of ground water resources, water scarcity and consequent impact on poverty and rural development. As per the survey report, ground water levels in the cities of Ahmedabad, Jodhpur and Chennai are falling at the rate of 7 to 10 feet per year. Ground water withdrawal exceeds annual recharge in Western, North-Western and Peninsular India. It also discusses the sustainability of water resources, the problem of water logging, water salinity and water pollution. The report highlights the need for water harvesting and recharge in improving the ground situation in the area.

Water being a State subject, necessary measures not only to check the declining trend in ground water level but also to ensure the ground water level development on sustainable basis are required to be taken by the State Governments. However, the steps / initiatives taken by the Central Government to check decline in the ground water level, inter alia, include:-

(i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(ii) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iii) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the State/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iv) Implementation of Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis.Total expenditure incurred for this scheme was Rs.23.48 crores during 9th Five Year Plan. The proposed plan allocation for this scheme during 10th Five Year Plan is Rs.200.00 crores.